

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5414

To promote global efforts to protect biological diversity by protecting the Tongass Rain Forest, the United States largest temperate rain forest, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2000

Mr. FILNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To promote global efforts to protect biological diversity by protecting the Tongass Rain Forest, the United States largest temperate rain forest, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Tongass Rain Forest Protection Act”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Rain forests constitute a unique reserve of
8 biological resources.

1 (2) Biological diversity depends on protecting
2 the habitats of animal and plant species in rain for-
3 ests around the world.

4 (3) United States leadership in urging other
5 countries to protect tropical rain forests is under-
6 mined by policies that subsidize the destruction of
7 publicly owned pristine temperate rain forests.

8 (4) The Tongass National Forest in Alaska is
9 the largest temperate rain forest in the United
10 States.

11 (5) The protection of pristine and old growth
12 forests within the Tongass National Forest will help
13 conserve the United States biological diversity and
14 enhance the credibility of the United States efforts
15 to conserve biological diversity globally.

16 (6) To the maximum extent possible, the
17 Tongass National Forest in the State of Alaska
18 should provide an undisturbed habitat for its many
19 animal and plant species, including but not limited
20 to bears, eagles, wolves, trumpeter swans, goshawks,
21 whales, and salmon.

22 (c) PROTECTION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HABI-
23 TATS.—Except as provided in contracts or leases that are
24 in force on the date of the enactment of this Act, no activi-
25 ties shall be allowed within the Tongass National Forest

1 that disturb or destroy the habitat of indigenous animal
2 and plant species. Activities that are prohibited under this
3 subsection include but are not limited to the following:

- 4 (1) Construction of new roads.
- 5 (2) Mining or extraction of minerals.
- 6 (3) Logging.

7 (d) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—In accordance
8 with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), all
9 inventoried roadless areas within the Tongass National
10 Forest are designated as wilderness areas and as compo-
11 nents of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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